



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
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West African Music Ensemble

Robert Kpogo, Director
with special guests

WAJJO African Drummers

Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 7 pm
Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building

Programme

Prelude: WAME: Drumming

Welcome: Dr. Kwasi Amenu-Tekaa (Master of Ceremony)

WAME: Dance

Wajjo African Drummers

Intermission (10 minutes)

Story-telling Festival

Wajjo African Drummers

WAME: Dance

Wajjo African Drummers

WAME: Dances

West African Music Ensemble

Robert Kpogo, Director

Dr. Wisdom Agorde, Instructor

Tendai Muparutsa, Teaching Assistant

The West African Music Ensemble, studies the polyphonic and polyrhythmic music of West Africa with particular focus on the Music of Ewe people of Ghana, Togo and Benin. This music combines song, dance, and percussion. As each component is crucial to the experience of Ewe music, all members participate as dancers, singers, and drummers. Founded in the fall of 1999 by Dr. Michael Frishkopf, the West African Music Ensemble is regularly featured in the Centre for Ethnomusicology's "World Music Sampler" and the University of Alberta International Week as well as occasional special events. The Ensemble is fortunate to own a complete set of authentic West African instruments for use by registered members of the group.

Members

David Addo

Michael Aytenfisu

Chen (Vincent) Zhi

Jacqueline Liang

Mengkang (Mike) Wang

Kayla Chambers

Aprile Hanrath

Wen Gao

Chin-Wen Huang

Conor Rogan

Barry Bilinsky

Chunwei Wang

Yun Fiona Chen

Young-Sin (Jason) Park

Adam Niemetz

Jillian Fulton

Wajjo African Drummers

Formed in 1990, **WAJJO African Drummers** introduced African music to a Western audience and creating, through collaboration with musicians from other ethnic backgrounds, an indigenous musical tradition that is a reflection of Canada's rich cultural diversity. Wajjo has toured throughout Western Canada and USA and recently performed in Toronto for Grey Cup on November 24, 2007 at Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel. They also opened Edmonton's popular Heritage Festival with one of Canada's top female Artist, Natalie MacMaster on August 3, 2008.

Drummers

Stennie Noel

Robert Kpogo

Kwasi Amenu-Tekaa

Obai Bollo-Kamara

Everoll Moses

Nandi Young

Marcia Brandon

Piper

Cam Wallace

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West African Music Ensemble Dances

Atsiagbekor/Gbekor is a contemporary version of the Ewe traditional war dance. The movements of the present day version of this dance are mostly in platoon formation. Reconnaissance, surprise attack, and hand to hand combats are the stylized forms of the modern version of this dance. The main dance is fast paced and draws upon battle maneuvers for certain episodes, such as planning the attack, advancing and retreating. The modern version of Atsiagbekor is performed for entertainment at social gatherings and at cultural presentations.

Gahu/Agahu was created by the Egun speaking people of Benin. Its popularity spread to the Badagry area of Nigeria where Ewe fishermen encountered it and shared it with their people upon return to Ghana. In the language of the creators, Gahu/Agahu means “airplane”-in reference to an event that occurred during its inaugural performance. As the Gahu/Agahu spread, it has collected song texts in many languages including, Egun, Yoruba, Ewe, French, and English.

Gota was originally a dance for medicine men and women of the ancient kingdom of Dahomey, now Benin, in West Africa. Today, Gota is performed for social entertainment. The synchronized stops and starts of the drums and dancers lend the dance an air of suspense and excitement.

Kinka is made up of lively music and dance from past traditions – the active and jubilant parts of the religion the song used are usually political and creatively played, involving others around them to join in the dance.

Tokoe is performed among the Ga-Adangme and the Ewe in the Tongue area of Southern Ghana during initiation or puberty along with the learning of the activities of motherwood. The dance movements appear to be simple but stylish, and present the newly eligible girls to the community. Currently Tokoe is also performed by some Ghanaian-African performing groups in Ghana and in contemporary settings.

Fume Fume is a ritual and spiritual dance of the Ga people of southern Ghana. The costumes and body make up depicts the spiritual possession of the dancers on stage. This sac rate music and has evolve to become part of the social music and dance of today's youth.

Kpanlogo music and dance is said to have originated from Otto Lincoln in the 1950s within the context of socialization and recreation. Kpanlogo is usually performed by the Ga-youth to express their own creativity, topical and occupational themes along the coastal areas of Ghana. In the present days, kpanlogo is performed in other communities and institutions of Ghana and contemporary settings.

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Founded in 1945, the University of Alberta Department of Music is dedicated to continued excellence and innovation in the creation, performance, study and teaching of Music. Offering distinct routes in Undergraduate studies, students passionate about pursuing a professional life in music are invited to complete a Bachelor of Music in **Composition & Theory, Music History, Performance, School Music** or **World Music**. Applications open now through May 1, 2012.

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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC UPCOMING EVENTS

Transcriptions for Winds...and more!
The University of Alberta Concert Band
Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 2 pm in Convocation Hall
Featuring works by Breugnion, Reed, and Perischetti
Admission by Donation

Music at Winspear presents:
World Music Sampler
Featuring the West African, Indian,
and Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensembles
Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 3 pm at the Winspear Centre for the Arts
\$60 Season Flex Pass | \$20 Adults | \$15 Seniors | \$10 Students
Tickets available in advance through the Department of Music
(3-82 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta | 780.492.0601 |
music@ualberta.ca) or at the door on the day of the performance

Music at Winspear presents:
A Celebration of Winds & Voices
Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Madrigal Singers & Concert Choir
Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 8 pm at the Winspear Centre for the Arts
Featuring works by Brahms, Grainger, Holsinger, Purcell & Whitacre
\$20 Adults | \$15 Seniors | \$10 Students | \$60 Season Flex Pass
Tickets available in advance through the Department of Music
(3-82 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta | 780.492.0601 |
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The Department of Music Masterclass Series presents
A Trumpet Masterclass with Allen Vizzutti
Monday, April 16, 1-3pm in Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building
Free and open to the public

The Department of Music presents
The Undergraduate Composers Concert
Featuring The Contempo New Music Ensemble
Tuesday, April 17 at 6 pm in Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building
Admission by Donation

Thank you for supporting the Department of Music. Word of mouth is our strongest form of publicity. If you enjoyed tonight's performance, please share your experience with others!